

## **VOLUNTEER MILITARY FORCES PROVIDE HOMELAND SECURITY AROUND THE WORLD**

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With the high Operations Tempo (OPTEMPO) in the current world environment, in addition to the United States, other nations are also experiencing a reduction in force while mission requirements are on the increase e.g. homeland security. However, a shortage in troop strength does not mitigate the requirement to maintain security with the many and varied non-state actors who remain a serious danger to the world at large. In addition, local, state, and Federal first responders are also challenged as mission requirements dictate an ever widening range of contingencies of natural and man-made disasters ranging from floods, hurricanes or a large significant event e.g., the September 11, 2001 attacks in addition to the threat of Weapons of Mass Destruction/Effects.

To add troop strength, both the U.S. and other countries are again calling on their “Home Guard” and other Volunteer Military Organizations as augmentation forces. Along with the federally sponsored U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary and U.S. Air Force Civil Air Patrol, there are states within the U.S. who have an active U.S. Code Title 32 authorized “Home Guard” or State Defense Force (SDF) unit and several with active Naval Militias (22 states and Puerto Rico). These Volunteer Military Organizations (VMOs) who much like their predecessors of World Wars I and II have a specific focus on homeland security and other skill sets to assist the first responder community.

The Home Guard concept was started in the U.S. before World War I, when a preponderance of Army and Air National Guard units were called to federal service. Beginning with the Dick Act of 1903 and the National Defense Act of 1916, each organized state Militia was transformed from a strictly state funded and equipped force to the official second line of defense of the United States.<sup>2</sup> As such the organized Militia now called the “National Guard” was both a state and Federal asset and could be called for a Federal emergency. So, beginning in 1916 then again in 1917 the National Guard was activated for Federal service first for the Mexican Border Campaign then for World War I.

Transforming the National Guard into a dual force was both a “blessing and a curse” for the United States. When activated for Federal service their absence effectively left states without the ability to cope with any natural or manmade contingency. State governors quickly contacted the U.S. War Department asking for troops to act in the stead of their departed National Guard units in 1916 and 1917. Denied access to Federal troop strength by the War Department, governors were advised to re-constitute replacement units and rename them the Home Guard. Legal authority to do so was provided by the Section 61 of the 1916 National Defense Act, and stated “That nothing contained in this act shall prevent the organization and maintenance of state police or Constabulary.” So, by the end of World War I in

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<sup>2</sup> COL Edmund Zysk, “Stay Behind Forces For the National Guard, Soldiers or Policemen?”, unpublished thesis, U.S. Army War College, Carlisle Barracks, Carlisle, PA, 1 May 1988, p. 3

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November 1918 no less than 27 states had organized, equipped and fielded an additional 79,000 soldiers, nation wide for strictly state service.<sup>3</sup>

World War II was the high point for the use of VMOs in the U.S.. As units of the National Guard were federalized in 1940, states were again left to their own devices to re-constitute a similar force to deal with contingencies, either natural or manmade in nature. Being better prepared than in the First World War, President Franklin Roosevelt passed the Home Guard Act in 1940 to help these state sponsored organizations by enabling them to make use of Federal arms and equipment when available. By the time of the Pearl Harbor Attack on December 7, 1941 at least 13,000 state Home Guard troops were on state active duty protecting critical infrastructure sites to include arms and munitions factories and critical sites e.g. power plants and strategic bridges and highways.<sup>4</sup>

By the end of the war all but four states raised and maintained Home Guard units, and their efforts paid off on in several areas. First, by providing uninterrupted service to their state by being versed in and able to fulfill their role as replacement National Guard units and second by enabling federalized troop strength to be better utilized in more critical areas of the war effort. Similar to their World War I counterparts, the Home Guard units of World War II were composed of mostly prior or retired service personnel, who in many cases had extensive backgrounds in civil-military operations. Units were organized similar to their National Guard counterparts, with Infantry being the most prominent branch and the model most units were patterned after. Additionally, these volunteer replacement units conducted training on a weekly basis and participated in a one week annual training event usually during the summer months. As well, U.S. Home Guard units conducted their training in a non-pay status, but often times were paid for their annual training, and sometimes when required to attend a course of instruction, when money was available.

While these replacement units were never called upon to fulfill a combat role in addition to training for natural and man made disasters, they also received training on sabotage, small unit patrolling and other fifth column tactics, techniques and procedures. As National Guard units returned from federal service, these Home Guard units were disbanded in all but a few states and mostly forgotten until years later.<sup>5</sup>

The U.S. Home Guard renamed SDF experienced a resurgence beginning in the 1970s as a result of Defense Secretary Laird's implementation of the Total Force. Today, approximately 22 states and

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<sup>3</sup> Barry M. Stentiford "The American Home Guard, The State Militia in the Twentieth Century, 2002, p. 51

<sup>4</sup> COL Edmund Zysk, "Stay Behind Forces For the National Guard, Soldiers or Policemen?", unpublished thesis, U.S. Army War College, Carlisle Barracks, Carlisle, PA, 1 May 1988, p. 8

<sup>5</sup> The Pennsylvania Guardsman Magazine, November 1948, p. 5; Pennsylvania State Archives, Harrisburg, PA

Puerto Rico still utilize SDF units in addition to the National Guard and have been used in a variety of contingencies to include the relief efforts for Hurricanes KATRINA, and RITA.<sup>6, 7, 8</sup>



## *“The Canadian Rangers”*

Our colleagues to the north, the Canadian armed forces also had a World War II version of the Home Guard as an early warning system particularly in the vast expanses of the Canadian tundra. They began as the Coastal Defense Guards and were finally recognized as the Pacific Coast Militia Rangers (PCMR), formed in early 1942 to protect British Columbia (BC).<sup>9</sup>

By war's end another group, the Canadian Rangers, was formally established in 1947 and similar to its World War II counterpart was and is currently responsible for protecting Canada's sovereignty by reporting unusual activities or sightings, collecting local data of significance to the Canadian Forces, and conducting surveillance or sovereignty patrols as required. This volunteer force plays an important part in advancing public recognition of Canada's First Nations and Inuit groups.

Currently there are 4,000 Rangers in 165 communities across Canada and by March 2008 they are targeted to increase their number by 800. There are Canadian Rangers in all provinces and territories except for Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick. Canadian Rangers provide a military presence in the sparsely settled northern, coastal and isolated areas of Canada that cannot conveniently or economically be provided for by other components of the Canadian Forces.<sup>10</sup>

With a motto of *Vigilans*, "The watchers," the mission essential tasks of the Canadian Rangers include reporting unusual activities, collecting local data of significance in support of military operations, conducting surveillance or presence patrols. They also assist the Canadian forces by

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<sup>6</sup> COL (MD) Wayne Nelson, COL (MD) Robert Barish, BG (MD) Frederic Smalkin, LTC (MD) James Doyle, and COL (MD) Martin Hershkowitz. "Developing Vibrant State Defense Forces: A Successful Medical and Health Service Model," *State Defense Force Monograph Series*, State Defense Force Publication Center, Winter 2006 (Medical Support), pp. 5-22, <http://www.sdfpc.org/>. Reprinted in Joint Center for Operational Analysis (JCOA-LL) Journal, Vol. IX, Issue 2, June 2007, pp. 42--55.

<sup>7</sup> LTC (MD) R. Colgan, CPT (MD) K. Davis, and COL (MD) R. Barish. "Operation Lifeline: Health Care Professionals from Maryland Respond to Hurricane Katrina." *State Defense Force Journal*, Vol. 2, No. 1, Spring 2006, pp. 9-12. Retrieved from The SDF Publication Center at <http://www.sdfpc.org/sdfjvol2.pdf>

<sup>8</sup> COL (TX) James Greenstone. "The Texas Medical Rangers in the Military Response of The Uniformed Medical Reserve Corps to Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita 2005: The New and Tested Role of the Medical Reserve Corps in the United States," *State Defense Force Monograph Series*, State Defense Force Publication Center, Winter 2006 (Medical Support), pp. 27-40, <http://www.sdfpc.org/>. Reprinted in Joint Center for Operational Analysis (JCOA-LL) Journal, Vol. IX, Issue 2, June 2007, pp. 56-62.

<sup>9</sup> Canadian Rangers available at [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Canadian\\_Rangers](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Canadian_Rangers)

<sup>10</sup> Canadian Rangers, Chief of Rangers and Cadets available at [http://www.rangers.dnd.ca/pubs/rangers/intro\\_e.asp](http://www.rangers.dnd.ca/pubs/rangers/intro_e.asp)

providing local expertise, guidance and advice, conducting Northern Warning System patrols, and assisting in local search and rescue (SAR) missions. Additionally, the Rangers have been invaluable by providing support in reporting unidentified vessels off the northeast coast of Quebec, participating as observers/guides for counter drug operations on the Canadian west coast, and disaster assistance situations such as downed aircraft in the far north.<sup>11</sup> Given their hearty lifestyle and infinite knowledge of Canada's vast expanses the Rangers perform their tasks exceptionally well and their value as an operational resource cannot be overstated.

All told, the Canadian Rangers belong to one of five patrol groups and are organized as follows:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Ranger Patrol Group is located in northern Canada with a total of 58 patrols in the Yukon, the Northwest Territories, Nunavut, Alberta, Saskatchewan and northern British Columbia;
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Canadian Ranger Patrol Group located in Quebec, with 23 patrols;
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Canadian Ranger Patrol Group located in northern Ontario, with 15 patrols;
- 4<sup>th</sup> Canadian Ranger Patrol Group located on the Pacific west coast and Prairies, with 38 patrols;
- 5<sup>th</sup> Canadian Ranger Patrol Group is located in Newfoundland and Labrador, with 29 patrols.<sup>12</sup>

The Rangers have been recognized for their significant contributions to their communities in times of disaster such as providing relief after the avalanche in northern Quebec (Kangiqsualujjuag). Additionally, much like their American counter parts in the Civil Air Patrol and Coast Guard Auxiliary who have similar cadet programs, many Canadian Rangers are involved as leaders and supervisors in their Junior Canadian Ranger (JCR) Program for youth ages 12 to 18 in remote and isolated areas of Canada.<sup>13</sup>

Training for the Canadian Ranger is not mandatory other than the initial ten-day orientation or "Boot Camp" for new members. The 10 day training includes basic drill, rifle marksmanship, general military knowledge, navigation (map, compass and global positioning systems), search and rescue, wilderness first aid and radio communications.<sup>14</sup> However, advanced training is required for Ranger Instructors and patrol leaders. Situation dependent, Ranger training schedules are flexible and can vary from patrol to patrol, or from one area to another.

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<sup>11</sup> Ibid

<sup>12</sup> Chief of Reserves and Cadets, about the Canadian Rangers available at [http://www.rangers.forces.gc.ca/pubs/rangers/overview/about\\_e.asp](http://www.rangers.forces.gc.ca/pubs/rangers/overview/about_e.asp)

<sup>13</sup> Chief of Reserves and Cadets, about the Junior Canadian Ranger Program available at [http://www.rangers.forces.gc.ca/pubs/jcr/intro\\_e.asp](http://www.rangers.forces.gc.ca/pubs/jcr/intro_e.asp)

<sup>14</sup> Third Canadian Ranger Patrol Group, A Proud History and Important Role available at [http://www.army.dnd.ca/3crpg/English/history/history\\_e.shtm](http://www.army.dnd.ca/3crpg/English/history/history_e.shtm)

Common task training for the Rangers includes flood and fire evacuation planning, area patrols, and major air disaster assistance. Since many areas are austere, there is an emphasis on self-sufficiency and leadership, as well as traditional skills – which are uniquely defined according to the cultural and historical practices in the local community. Periodic maintenance inspections of the North Warning System (NWS) is another invaluable mission conducted by the Canadian Rangers, whereas others conduct presence patrols in the remote and coastal areas of Canada. In terms of traditional Canadian Forces training, the Rangers are required to learn rifle marksmanship and the history and traditions of the Canadian Forces. Each Canadian Ranger is issued a .303 caliber Lee Enfield No. 4 rifle, with 200 rounds of ammunition each year, along with a colorful red Ranger sweatshirt, ball cap and a safety vest.<sup>15</sup> Figures 1 & 2 provide photos of Canadian Rangers training events.



Figure 1



Figure 2

## “The Norwegian Home Guard”



HQs



Army



Navy



Air Force

Norway also utilizes volunteer military forces or Home Guard, called the *Heimevernet*. Founded after World War II (1946), the organization is used to protect the local infrastructure and population, but could also be utilized as conventional forces. As members were of the resistance during World War II, these volunteers secured infrastructure sites, were a local and decentralized force, and had the ability to mobilize quickly.<sup>16</sup>

During the Cold War period the *Heimevernet* was organized into 18 static districts within Norway. With an end strength totaling 83,000 personnel, their focus was on an invasion from Eastern Europe. Unfortunately, and much the same as reserve or volunteer forces elsewhere in the world, these volunteers fell victim to a poor grade of equipment that was handed down from the Army, Navy and Air Force.<sup>17</sup>

Not unlike the militaries of other nations, to include the U.S., the Norwegian armed forces is going through a transformation as one with a Cold War focus of defense against an invasion to one that reflects the current world situation e.g., asymmetrical operations, non-state actors and unpredictable

<sup>15</sup> Ibid

<sup>16</sup> *Norwegian Home Guard* [on line article], accessed 11 April 2007, available from [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Norwegian\\_Home\\_Guard](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Norwegian_Home_Guard)

<sup>17</sup> CPT. Christine Huseby interviewed by author, 25 October 2006, Carlisle Barracks, e-mail messages

short notice contingencies. As such, the Norwegian Home Guard is in the midst of transformation with emphasis on upgrading of arms and equipment, and procuring quality personnel focusing on their training and capabilities. Once complete, the Home Guard will have the responsibility to man 13 districts instead of the Cold War scenario of 18, with a reduction in force from the Cold War strength of 83,000 to 50,000, inheriting the responsibility of defending the homeland and a mission recently passed to them from the Norwegian Army. The current structure of the Norwegian Home Guard is divided into three components, Army (80% of the Home Guard Force), Navy (10%) and the Air Force Home Guard (also 10% of the force).<sup>18</sup> The mission essential tasks of the Army Home Guard are critical infrastructure protection, force protection, and surveillance and control. The naval component is responsible for surveillance, maritime control, supplying boarding and coastal spotting teams and security divers, while the air component is focused on integration within their air force base structure<sup>19</sup>

Under the new quality reform structure the Norwegian Home Guard is categorized into three components: The Rapid Reaction Force, The Reinforcement Force and Follow on Force. The Rapid Reaction Force part of the Norwegian Home Guard is composed of between 3,000-5,000 personnel who train regularly (4-60 days a year) are responsible for force protection, and anti-terror. This force is postured to be a mobile and flexible force with priority on new weapons, equipment and training. The Reinforcement Force is the second category of 25,000 personnel and is responsible for sustainment operations, is also second priority for training, equipment and weapons issue, and is required to train from 3-5 days a year. The final category, the Follow on Force, is proposed to be manned at 20,000, is responsible to secure critical infrastructure sites, and trains 3-5 days every six months. Figure 3 provides a pictorial of the recently updated Norwegian Home Guard structure and delineates the priorities of the force.

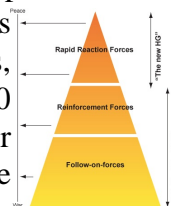


Figure 3

This volunteer force is the youngest branch of the Norwegian military and similar to the United States Army and Air National Guard have units stationed in local communities. As such, since most members of the Norwegian Home Guard are from the local community, they are well suited to conduct clandestine operations if the need arises. As well and similar to other VMOs in the United States and Canada, the Norwegian Home Guard has an active Youth Organization of approximately 1,200 members between the ages of 16-21. The training curriculum for the Youth Program includes subjects such as military skills, sports and athletics, first aid, rifle marksmanship and use of communications systems.<sup>20</sup>

## *“Danish Home Guard”*

Denmark is another Scandinavian nation who uses a Home Guard. The *Hjemmeværnet* was founded in 1949, initially consisting of many former members of the Danish resistance movement active during World War II from 1940-1945. The year 1948 proved a banner year for the Danish Home Guard

<sup>18</sup> CPT. Christine Huseby interviewed by author, 25 October 2006, Carlisle Barracks, e-mail messages

<sup>19</sup> Ibid,

<sup>20</sup> Ibid, Slide 16



as the Danish Parliament passed the first Home Guard Act. Although updated on several occasions, the fundamental principles still remain the same as they were in 1948.<sup>21</sup>

Membership to the Danish Home Guard is open to both men and women with an age requirement to be at least 18 years old at application. While a military background is helpful it is not required, with the desire to participate being the driving force. There are four branches of the Home Guard to include:

- The Army Home Guard - 49,000
- The Naval Home Guard - 4,400
- The Air Force Home Guard – 5,700
- The Infra-structure Home Guard – 3,000<sup>22</sup>

A volunteer force of approximately 61,000 personnel, the Home Defense Guard force, (including 800 civilian employees) and 40 Naval patrol vessels, during peacetime are under the command of the Home Guard Command. The Home Guard force is organized in territorially defined home defense companies, which in wartime forms part of the forces of the military regions, the naval home defense force, supports the navy, and the air force home defense component supports the air force Surveillance and Early Warning group by monitoring low-altitude air space, assisting with surveillance tasks, etc. Simply stated the primary mission of the Danish Home Guard is to reinforce and support the federal force e.g., the Army, Navy, and Air Force in fulfilling their missions. Specific mission essential tasks assigned to the Danish Home Guard include surveillance and reporting, static guarding and securing, protection activities, and limited and uncomplicated combat operations.<sup>23</sup>

With a primary focus on military operations, the Danish Home Guard can also be activated to support the private sector. In much the same way as their counterparts in other nations, the Danish Home Guard is called upon to render assistance during natural or manmade disasters e.g., assistance to the police during national disasters, search-and-rescue operations, etc.<sup>24</sup> These fundamental principles form the ideological concept of the Home Guard which is: A citizen, as a member of the Home Guard, is able to demonstrate his right - voluntarily and unpaid - to participate in the defence of his country and its democratic values.

## ***“Swedish Home Guard”***

Sweden is the last of the Scandinavian nations to use Volunteer Military Organizations, called the *Hemvärnet* (or Swedish Home Guard). Similar to other nations, the Hemvärnet had its beginning during the trying times of World War II. As the war clouds gathered over Europe, the Swedish Rikstag

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<sup>21</sup> Hjemmeværnet, the Danish Home Guard available at [http://www.hjv.dk/Eng/forside\\_engelsk.htm](http://www.hjv.dk/Eng/forside_engelsk.htm)

<sup>22</sup> Denmark, Official Denmark Defense and Military available at <http://www.um.dk/Publikationer?UM/English/Denmark/kap 1/1-13-7.asp>

<sup>23</sup> Ibid

<sup>24</sup> Forsvarministeriet, Ministry of Defence Denmark available at <http://forsvaret.dk/FMN/eng/Total+Defence/The+Danish+Home+Guard/>



(Parliament) passed legislation establishing the Swedish Home Guard in May of 1940, particularly due to the large numbers of men being drafted for service and being taken away for their local communities. As well, since these units were reserve forces, they were relegated with simple tasks and suffered from lack of military equipment and uniforms.<sup>25</sup>

Since that time Sweden has maintained their Home Guard, which at its height in 1986 had 120,000 members.<sup>26</sup> At present the Swedish Home Guard is experiencing a transformation and is being reduced from 70 battalions to 60 by 2008. Additionally, each battalion is slated to contain 325 soldiers and each company of the battalion will have approximately 100 personnel. As well, each battalion will have a “ready reaction company,” which will have a higher state of readiness in training, equipment and mobility, than the rest of the battalion with the ability to answer the call to emergency contingencies in minimal time.

The mission essential tasks assigned to the Hemvärnet include:

- Guards/protects the infrastructure that is most vital for Sweden's total defense; that is, power supplies, command and communication systems, communications and other installations against sabotage.
- Guards/protects important installations at airfields and naval bases against sabotage.
- Guards/protects ammunition and mobilization depots and sensitive entry points against sabotage.
- Assists in incident preparedness, surveillance of territory and in civilian disaster/rescue readiness.
- Water borne presence patrols of local archipelagos and along the Swedish coast.<sup>27</sup>

The initial requirements to join the Swedish Home Guard include:

- Be a Swedish citizen,
- Have completed at least 85 days of military training,
- Be available for duty,
- Have been cleared through Military Intelligence and Security, the police and municipal authorities.

Once accepted soldiers are required to complete an introductory course of between 20-40 hours and are obligated to at least 20 training hours per year. Officers of the Home Guard are required to complete between 40-100 hours of annual service, and commanders spend even more time ensuring the successful completion of current operations and training. Commanders of the Home Guard normally are trained in the Swedish active forces, and can be conscripts, Reserve Officers or former career officers. Additionally, for training purposes within the Home Guard system, there is a specific National Home Guard Combat School which is located near the capital of Stockholm.

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<sup>25</sup> Swedish Armed Forces, History, available at <http://www.hemvarnet.mil.se/article.php?c=art&id=13702&do=print>

<sup>26</sup> Ibid

<sup>27</sup> Swedish Armed Forces, NHG Today, available at <http://www.hemvarnet.mil.se/article.php?id=13706&lang=E>

The future for the Swedish Home Guard appears to be even more dynamic since, in addition to a reduction in force currently being experienced by the force, plans of upgrading equipment and weaponry are well on the way e.g., night vision goggles, and GPS targeting systems to name a few. As well, new units such as search and rescue, clearance and rescue, field engineering, medical, NBC and observation/surveillance are slated to be organized and activated. Also, the mission task list for the Home Guard forces will have increased emphasis on supporting civil society in peace, largely due to the mission requirements of aiding with forest fires, flooding and search and rescue.<sup>28</sup>

## “Indian Territorial Army”

Unlike previously cited examples, the volunteer Indian Territorial Army has a longer history being established by the British through the Indian Territorial Act of 1920. The organization was divided into two organizations, “The Auxiliary Force” for Europeans & Anglo-Indians, and “The Indian Territorial Force” for Indian Volunteers. After India gained independence, the Independence Territorial Army Act was passed in 1948 and the Territorial Army (TA) was formally inaugurated by the first Indian Governor General Shri C Rajagopalachari on 9 October 1949.<sup>29</sup>

Initially, the TA was composed of various units e.g., Armored Regiments, Infantry Battalions, Air Defense, Medical Regiment, Engineers Field Park Company, Signal Regiment, and Coast Battery to name a few. However, except for Infantry Battalions, by 1972 most units were either disbanded or incorporated into the Regular Army.

The TA is part of active Army and its primary role is to relieve the Army from static duties and assist civil authorities with natural or manmade contingencies, and provide units for the active Army when required.<sup>30</sup>

Presently, the Territorial Army has strength of approximately 40,000, which includes Departmental TA units e.g., Railway, Telecommunication, General Hospital and non Departmental TA units of Infantry Bn (TA) and Ecological Bn (TA) affiliated to various Infantry Regiments.<sup>31</sup> Figure 4 shows TA units marching past India Gate on 9 Oct 1955.



Figure 4

Units of the Territorial Army have been involved in national contingencies during the 1962, 1965, and 1971 timeframe. Additionally, the TA has also taken part in a variety of other operations e.g., Operation PAWAN in Srilanka, Operation RAKSHAK in Punjab and J&K, Operations RHINO and BAJRANG

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<sup>28</sup> Swedish Armed Forces, NHG Tomorrow available at <http://www.hemvarnet.mil.se/article.php?id=13705&lang=E>

<sup>29</sup> Indian Army, Territorial Army available at <http://indianarmy.nic/arta1.htm>

<sup>30</sup> Territorial Army, available at <http://bharat-rakshak.com/LAND-FORCES/Army/TA.html>

<sup>31</sup> Indian Army

in North East India. As well, TA Departmental units aided civil authorities during labor unrest and natural contingencies, the most notable being earthquakes in Latoor (Maharashtra), Uttarkashi in Garhwal Himalaya, and a cyclone in Orissa province. Ecological units of the TA have also been active in stemming the tide of environmental degradation by planting 2.5 crore (i.e., 25-million) trees over 20,000 hectare of land in Mussoori Hills and Pithoragarh (UP), Bikaner and Jaisalmer (Rajasthan), and ravines of Chambal in Madhya Pradesh.

In addition to traditional operations TA members have also taken part in various adventure activities, e.g., the climbing of Mt. Tengchen Khang (6010 Meters) in West Sikkim by Jt-Indo-British TA Mountaineering Expedition in May 98.<sup>32</sup>

Similar to other nations, India has established policies and procedures to join the TA. For example, Indian Nationals between 18 years to 42 years meeting a prescribed physical and medical standard are eligible for a commission in the TA. To take advantage of the already trained manpower pool the upper age limit for officer application is not a rigid requirement. Once screened and accepted, a commission is granted normally in the rank of Lieutenant. Former Army Officers are granted ante-date seniority for promotion.<sup>33</sup>

## CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

Further research suggests the aforementioned VMOs are not an all inclusive list of such organizations used in past or present operations. However, while they vary from country to country, in size, structure, and assigned missions, unlike the U.S. and their treatment of SDFs, other nations have taken an active interest in integrating VMOs into the overall defense of the state. That fact in and of itself is a testament to the degree of importance and confidence continually being placed on volunteers. Since the U.S. military began as volunteers and has over time evolved into one of excellence in both the federal active and reserve components, it is of little wonder that some question why interest in U.S. VMOs is mostly an afterthought. There are, however, some problems the US faces when joining active duty and reserve forces on homeland security missions due to conflicting mission, training and logistic issues<sup>34</sup> and a recent SDF movement into military emergency management<sup>35</sup>

Additionally, other nations VMOs are fully integrated as far as training and equipment, in particular, individual and crew served weapons familiarizing and qualification. As well, since most other VMOs are integrated into the federal defense plan of their respective nation, funding for individual equipment and related ancillary equipment is not an issue, which is not the case in U.S. VMOs in particular SDFs, which are state organized and recognized.

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<sup>32</sup> Indian Army; Territorial Army; History available at <http://indianarmy.nic.in/artal1.htm>

<sup>33</sup> Ibid

<sup>34</sup> COL (MD) Martin Hershkowitz. "Homeland Security: The Military's Confusing Role," *State Defense Force Journal*, Vol. 2, No. 2, Fall 2006, pp. 27-38. Retrieved from The SDF Publication Center at <http://www.sdfpc.org/>

<sup>35</sup> CSM (WA) Jeffery Slotnick. "The Impact of the Military Emergency Management Specialist (MEMS) Academy on State Defense Forces," *State Defense Force Journal*, Vol. 2, No. 2, Fall 2006, pp. 13-18. Retrieved from The SDF Publication Center at <http://www.sdfpc.org/>

Given that many countries are experiencing downsizing in the respective militaries due to a variety of financial issues, but with an increase of mission responsibilities, particularly in the area of homeland defense and security, fully utilizing and integrating VMOs of all types indicates an intelligent and well thought out method of augmenting their federal forces. Those who utilize VMOs have learned from history that one can never have enough troop support to deal with all contingencies and given the volatility and uncertainty of today's environment, using VMOs is a step "in the right direction" and should be applauded for their efforts.

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